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**GROUP 3600**

Our Case No. 8285/314  
(A00542)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Robert W. Bossemeyer, Jr. et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/407,126 ) Examiner: Igor N. Borissov  
Filing Date: September 27, 1999 ) Group Art Unit No.: 3629  
For METHOD, SYSTEM, AND ARTICLE )  
FOR DETERMINING AN AVAILABILITY )  
OF A TELECOMMUNICATION )  
FEATURE )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a Preliminary Amendment, which accompanies Applicants' Request for Continued Examination, along with a request for a one-month extension of time to reply and appropriate fee. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to

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withdraw the objections and rejections to this application and to grant allowance of this application in view of the following remarks and amended claims.

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 24-26, as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

inquiring in a first transaction about a first telecommunication feature unavailable to a first party of a telecommunication network;

in accordance with the inquiring in the first transaction, storing a first data structure which identifies the first party of the telecommunication network and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

after storing the first data structure, and after completion of the first transaction, inputting availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party; and

processing the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

9. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first call from a first party of a telecommunication network;  
determining that a first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

informing, in the first call, that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

storing a first data structure which identifies the first party and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

receiving a second call from a second party;

determining that a second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;